

**NORTH VERNON
UTILITY SERVICE BOARD MEETING
March 4, 2019
6:00 p.m.**

***Board Members Terms: Susan Taylor 12/31/2020 (R) (M), Warren Alexander (R) (M) 12/31/2020
Patrick Kirchner 12/31/2020 (D) (C),
Terry Thompson (R) (M) 12/31/2020, Harold Campbell (D) (C) 12/31/2018***

The North Vernon Utilities Service Board met on March 4, 2019 at the Carnegie/Government Center.
Members present: Susan Taylor, Patrick Kirchner, Warren Alexander, Terry Thompson and Harold Campbell.

Also attending the meeting: Russell Vaught Wastewater Superintendent, Will Spencer Water Superintendent, Richard Morin City Engineer, Chris Doran Attorney, Cara Giles Office Manager, Tonia Klepper Administrative Assistant and Nikki Hatfield Office Clerk.

The agenda given to each Utility Service Board Member is as follows:

- I. **Approval of minutes previous meeting:** Warren Alexander made motion to approve the previous meeting minutes, Terry Thompson second. 5-0.
- II. **Public Comment:** Lorie Maschino of 508 South State Street in North Vernon spoke on her behalf. Ms. Maschino had concerns and discussed more than one issue. She brought pictures of brown water that she filled in gallon jugs from her residence, she states this has been an ongoing issue for several years. The board suggested that Will Spencer flush the hydrant across from her house twice during the hydrant flushing process. Warren Alexander mentioned to Will Spencer that he would like him to notify the customer when hydrants are being flushed.

She also states that she had an issue with her washing machine that had pulled the hose out of the wall causing a water leak resulting in a \$300.00 plus bill. Her concern was for the non-payment fee and no adjustment made for the leak. Cara Giles presented complete findings on her account, she noted three previous non-payment fees associated with her utility account. The board reminded the customer that the office would be able to set up a payment plan for her. Terry explained the billing and due process for the bills and noted that exceptions could not be made.
- III. **Storm Water Report:** Russell Vaught reports to the board that this department did not have issues. He states that the storm water grant was sent off Friday for approval. He expects a response within 30 days.
- IV. **Wastewater Department Reports & Info**

- **Collection System:** Russell Vaught reports to the board about a main break on Myrtle Avenue causing several damaged laterals. He indicated that the new Vactor truck had been used in this process.
- **Treatment Plant:** Russell Vaught reports that the treatment plant did not have any issues. He also reported that the sewer line has been installed off of 100 North. He also reported that the new Hardees project is moving forward, along with the project of townhouses being put in on 300 North.

V. **Water Department & Treatment Plant:**

- **Distribution System:** Will Spencer reports to the board that the potential new hire is not hireable due to unforeseen circumstances. The department is still hiring for distribution. He also discussed the issue with Lorie Maschino's brown water issue with the board and suggested that he use the automatic hydrant flusher to help control the brown water issue.
- **Treatment Plant:** Will Spencer reports there are no updates on the treatment plant at this time.

VI: **Utility Administration Report:**

- **Claims and Transfers:** Susan Taylor made motion to approve and claims and expenses, Terry Thompson second. 5-0.

Susan Taylor questioned the high duke energy bills and how the solar project is not going as planned. Russell Vaught indicated that they do have an electric budget. He also reported that city council has had several meetings with Johnson- Mellow.

- **Office Report:** Cara Giles reports the utility office is working with the distribution department to have the billing ready by the 20th of the month for a three-month span to move forward with Boyce Mail preparing and distributing bills for the office.

VII: **Unfinished Business:**

- **Hwy 50 Bypass:** Richard Morin reports no new updates on the quarry at this time. He states they are getting bidding documents together.
- **Annexation/ Easement Updates:** Richard Morin reports that they had a progress meeting last Tuesday, and a representative from IDEM attended the

meeting to review construction progress. He states that she discussed going with an individual permit process rather than a general permit process. He indicated that he met with Omara's and they discussed trees being cut down before April 1st. He reports that they canceled their grubber and sub contracted out the clearing. He also reports that he received an email Friday from core of engineers stating they wanted to do a site visit. This is scheduled for Wednesday. He also reported that at the construction meeting they had completed some work at the 350-lift station. He reports that a pay estimate has been presented at the construction meeting and everything appeared to be in order. The board discussed allowing Russell to approve the pay estimate from Omara's providing everything is in line, Pat Kirchner made motion, Warren Alexander second 5-0.

Russell Vaught reported they will be receiving the Wells Fargo Easement.

- Russell Vaught reports that the closing on 404 Ninth St is scheduled for the 30th of March. The purchase amount is \$54,000.00. An appraisal is scheduled for tomorrow. Russell indicated the owner had 30 days to remove his items from the property.

VIII: New Business:

Chris Doran presented a drafted letter for Chrystal Wilson at 313 South Gum Street. The letter is to inform the customer that the account has a past due balance of \$614.10 and legal action is being brought against her. Russell Vaught indicated that he would like Chris Doran to work with office clerk Nikki Hatfield on how to process small claims. Warren Alexander made motion to allow Chris to continue with the letter and filing small claims, Patrick Kirchner second, 5-0.

Susan Taylor made motion to adjourn, Warren Alexander second, 5-0


Utility Service Board Chairman

3-18-19
Date


Utility board secretary

3-18-19
Date